Interactive comment on “A simple ecohydrological model captures essentials of seasonal leaf dynamics in semi-arid tropical grasslands” by P. Choler et al.

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The discussion phase of bg-2009-193 is going to end soon (11 December) and we have three reviews available, thus I am contributing an editorial comment at this point to guide the revision of the paper.

The three reviews are generally very positive - the reviewers consistently felt that the paper represents a novel and important contribution to the field. They, however, raised a number of concerns - two reviewers were recommending major, one minor revisions are necessary to make the paper acceptable for publication. I think the issues raised by the reviewers will indeed (further) improve the paper and I am thus looking forward to a revision of the paper which takes these recommendations (and mine, which follow below) into account. The revised manuscript should be line-numbered and accompanied by a point-by-point reply to the reviewer (and my) comments.

General comments: Similar to one of the reviewers I had the feeling that at times the paper was extremely condensed. In particular when discussing linear vs. non-linear models I sometimes lost track of the differences between the models, in particular which processes and how these are (not) represented - maybe the authors can invest a bit more into getting down to the processes when discussing differences between the models. I also view the lack of other validation data for the model a drawback - not only regarding soil water content as one reviewer pointed out, but also regarding Eq.(1), i.e. the basic relationship between the green vegetation fraction and NDVI. Finally, I was a bit wondering that a lot of metrics are used to evaluate the model, none explicitly considered the different numbers of parameters (such as the Akaike Information Criterion).